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AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH ADMINISTRATION
BUREAU OF ENTOMOLOGY AND PLANT QUARANTINE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.



In cooperation with State, Federal, and other Agencies

COTTON INSECT CONDITIONS FOR THE TWO WEEKS ENDING SEPTEMBER 14, 1946
(Fifteenth Cotton Insect Survey Report for 1946)

No report was issued for the week ending September 7. As most of the cotton has reached or is reaching maturity, and the supplies of insecticides to protect the late crop appear, in general, to be adequate, this report covering the first two weeks of September will be the last regular Cotton Insect Survey report issued during 1946. It is expected that those cooperating will continue to send items of interest. If anything of special interest or importance develops, it will be distributed as a special report.

It is especially desirable to obtain additional information in regard to the spread and abundance of the cotton leafworm. No reports have yet been received in regard to the appearance of this insect in the Carolinas, Virginia and Florida. The cotton leafworm has been found in only one county in Georgia - specimens having been received from Mitchell County. It has been reported in only one county in Alabama - Hale County.

It is also desirable to have records of the northern limits of the boll weevil spread this season in Virginia, North Carolina, Tennessee, Arkansas and Oklahoma. Information in regard to the amount of damage caused by the bollworm, cotton aphid, and other insects will aid in summarizing the seasonal infestation of these pests.

Comments reviewing the insecticide supply situation during the past season are also desired.

These additional data from cooperators will be useful in preparing a final summary report.

BOLL WEEVIL

TEXAS: The boll weevil in general is doing little damage, but some concentration is taking place in late-fruiting cotton.

OKLAHOMA: Practically all squares are now being punctured by weevils in eastern and central Oklahoma. The average infestation for the week ending September 6, in 51 fields in eight central and southern counties, where squares were sufficient to make records, was 60%. In one field in Lincoln County the infestation was less than 10%; in two fields in Johnston and Lincoln Counties it was from 10 to 25%; in 15 fields it was from 25 to 50%; and in 33 fields in Bryan, Johnston, Lincoln, Love, Marshall, Murray, and Pottawatomie Counties more than 50% of the squares were punctured.

NORTH CAROLINA: The average boll weevil infestation in 22 fields in six counties where squares were sufficient to make records was 17%. Weevils were found in all fields. In five fields in Polk and Rutherford Counties the infestation was less than 10%; in 12 fields in Cleveland, Gaston, Rutherford, Iredell, and Polk Counties, it was from 10 to 25%; and in five fields in Gaston and Mecklenburg Counties between 25% and 50% of the squares were punctured. The boll weevil has caused little damage in these counties in the western part of the State.

VIRGINIA: The average weevil infestation in 17 fields in Brunswick, Greenville, Southampton, and Nansemond Counties was 18%. Infestation was found in all fields examined. In five fields the infestation was less than 10%; in eight fields it was from 10 to 25%; and in 4 fields in Greenville and Nansemond Counties between 25% and 50% of the squares were punctured. The boll weevil has caused little damage to cotton in Virginia.

COTTON LEAFWORM

TEXAS: Cotton leafworms are ragging and stripping succulent cotton in isolated fields in several areas of the State, and some poisoning is being done for their control. On September 3, L. W. Noble, Fabens, Texas, wrote: "It is believed that the only dusting needed in the El Paso Valley during the remainder of this season will be for the control of leafworms. Considerable dusting is being done for these insects at the present time. It is doubtful if it will be beneficial to continue poisoning after the next two weeks. The insecticide supply appears to be Satisfactory." O. T. Robertson: "Approximately 325 acres of cotton were dusted with calcium arsenate by airplane for cotton leafworm in the Presidio Valley during the week ending September 6."

OKLAHOMA: Leafworm populations continue to increase over much of the State and many fields are now ragged. Many farmers are dusting late cotton for their control.

ARIZONA: The fields of cotton reported infested with leafworms in the Santa Cruz Valley August 27 have all been dusted with calcium arsenate with satisfactory results. Leafworms are now general over the Safford Valley and control measures may be required.

NEW MEXICO: The second generation of leafworms have appeared in Eddy County in the Pecos Valley and much dusting is underway for their control.

MISSISSIPPI: The cotton leafworm has stripped or ragged practically all cotton fields in Washington County in the central Delta that have not been poisoned for boll weevil control.

TENNESSEE: G. M. Bentley, State Entomologist, reported September 6 that cotton leafworms had been found in Tipton County by W. G. McGowan, County Agent. Infestations have been reported previously in Gibson and Carroll Counties.

MISSOURI: E. W. Dunnam and F. S. Carr, of this Bureau, found leafworms in 26 fields in Butler, Dunklin, Mississippi, New Madrid, Pemiscot, and Stoddard Counties. George D. Jones, Extension Entomologist, reported September 6 that leafworms were present in all stages at Sikeston, in Scott County, and poisoning operations were underway for their control.

ILLINOIS: E. W. Dunnam of this Bureau reported leafworm infestation in Alexander County, 13 miles north of Cairo. S. C. Stewart reported on September 14 light infestations in all fields examined in Alexander and Pulaski Counties.

BOLLWORM

TEXAS: Bollworms continue to take a toll of newly set fruit in some areas, except in isolated fields where poisoning is being done for their control.

OKLAHOMA: Bollworm injury decreased during the past two weeks.

ARIZONA: Several growers in the Santa Cruz Valley south of Tucson have dusted from two to three times for bollworm control with satisfactory results.

MISSISSIPPI: Bollworm damage has decreased in Washington County during the past two weeks. No eggs and small worms were observed during the week ending September 13.

APHIDS

TEXAS: A rapid increase in aphid populations is occurring in many fields. This insect is becoming so numerous in some fields that leaves are being shed and open cotton is being stained.

MISSISSIPPI: Cotton aphid populations are increasing in a number of fields in Washington County in the Delta section of the State where control measures have not been practiced. Infestations were noted in some fields that had been dusted for aphid control.

RED SPIDER

MISSISSIPPI: Red spiders were noted in comparatively small numbers on practically every leaf examined in some fields in Washington County in the central Delta, and light infestations were observed in all fields inspected.

COTTON INSECT CONDITIONS IN

ARIZONA: W. A. Stevenson, Tucson, Arizona, reported on September 4: "An unusual amount of dusting has been done for beet armyworms, bollworms, and injurious hemiptera. The principal dust has been 5% DDT in sulfur, and the results have been very satisfactory, with the exception of the control secured on stinkbugs. Recently, we have secured excellent results with 20% sabadilla on stinkbugs. This is a rather expensive insecticide, but a considerable amount has been used, and is still being used.

"The injurious hemiptera populations have generally been lower than in the past several years, with the possible exception of stinkbugs, but even so, at times 26 or more dusting planes were kept busy in Arizona applying insecticides. Some temporary shortages of DDT developed, but in no case have the growers had to wait longer than a few days. The insecticide dealers have all been on the job and

tried to anticipate their needs. One dealer has recently ordered a car of calcium arsenate for leafworm control, if needed later. Due to the bee poisoning problem, very little arsenicals are being used in Arizona, so that the supply is very limited.

"The prospects are for an excellent yield this season, and most of the growers are very happy. The acreage will undoubtedly be increased another season.

"Dusting will continue on a limited scale for possibly a week or ten days, and longer, should the leafworm infestation develop."

OKLAHOMA: C. F. Stiles, Stillwater, Oklahoma, wrote on September 10 that the infestations of the cotton leafworm have been rather local and calcium arsenate has been applied for its control. This insect as yet has not caused serious damage in the State this year. The bollworm damage seems to be over for the season. The boll weevil population has greatly increased since the general rain of August 25. Most of the cotton that needs protection is so rank that farmers do not care to go in the fields with their tractors to dust and are letting boll weevils get the late crop.

MISSOURI: Examinations were made in 72 cotton fields in 8 counties in southeastern Missouri. No boll weevils were found. Cotton leafworms were found in 26 fields. Bollworms were noted in 35 fields; aphids in 31 fields; the rapid plant bug in 24 fields; the tarnished plant bug in 12 fields; and another sucking bug (Neurocolpus nubilus) was noted in 9 fields. None of the insects observed were causing serious damage, but the cotton leafworm populations were increasing so that there was danger that these insects might become abundant enough to defoliate the cotton.

KENTUCKY: Examinations were made in 15 cotton fields in Carlisle, Fulton, and Hickman Counties during the last days of August. No boll weevils or cotton leafworms were found. Aphids were noted in 8 fields; bollworms in 5 fields; the rapid plant bug in 9 fields; the tarnished plant bug in 2 fields; and the sucking bug, (Neurocolpus nubilus), in 2 fields. None of the insects were present in sufficient numbers to justify the use of insecticides.

ILLINOIS: On September 6, E. W. Dunnam, of this Bureau, examined 10 fields in Alexander County and 10 fields in Pulaski. No weevils were found. A light infestation of cotton leafworm was found in one field in Alexander County about 13 miles north of Cairo. The tarnished plant bug was noted in 6 fields; the rapid plant bug in 9 fields; the cotton aphid in 12 fields; and the bollworm in 8 fields. None of the insects observed were causing serious damage to cotton. Dr. S. C. Chandler, Field Entomologist, Carbondale, Illinois, wrote on September 14 that a little injury and a few specimens of the cotton leafworm were noted in most all fields examined in Pulaski and Alexander Counties, but the infestations were light and there was little prospect of the leafworm becoming serious. He stated that the supply of calcium arsenate seems to be adequate.

September 18, 1946
